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13 February 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD.

SUBJECT : Project ARGO - Comments on [] Draft of
Memo to Accompany ARGO Final Report

REFERENCES: A. [] 12 February 1968, Covering memo
from AD/DCI/NIPE requesting comments on

B. [] 9 February 1968, Draft of
[] memo to accompany Project
ARGO Final Report and to be signed by
[] Special Assistant to the
President for Science and Technology

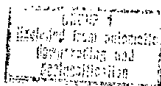
1. On the morning of 13 February, [] advised that [] wished a single DDI reply to NIPE on [] draft and that they hoped to prepare the reply that day. NPIC comments, approved by the Director and Executive Director, were phoned Chapin during the morning. [] stated he had no need for follow-up memo. [] NIPE, was then advised that NPIC comments had been provided [] for the DDI's reply to his memo.

2. There follows the text transmitted by phone to []

A. We agree with [] three points.

B. Beyond these, it is certain that the proposed standing committee will be making requests of NPIC for materials and other miscellaneous services. Something should be said in the comments back to [] that NPIC's ability to provide such services must be subordinate to NPIC first meeting a heavy load of intelligence requirements.

C. Believe also it would be advisable to insure that there is understanding of the fact that imagery analysts, photogrammetrists and other such specialists are in extremely short supply and there needs be some arrangement to avoid emphasizing




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to Accompany ARGO Final Report

peaceful uses at the expense of intelligence (or vice versa)
until the country's campuses and training facilities, through
inspiration, begin to meet the various national needs.

D. For your information NPIC to date has expended 3,279
man hours in support of Project ARGO, 2,256 of which were ex-
pended in FY 68.

D.S.S.


Assistant to Deputy Director, NPIC

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12 February 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence
Deputy Director for Science & Technology
Chairman, COMIREX
Director, NPIC
Chief, Information Requirements Staff/DDI
OS/ES/Special Security Center

1. [] left this draft with us the afternoon of the 9th of February. He proposes to go to press with it sometime after the 19th. He would like to have our views. Note that he wants to say in the middle of the second page that Mr. Helms "has agreed to cooperate."
2. I think we all agree that something like this is bound to come. [] thinks we can hold off pressures from various sources, including the Vice President (as Chairman of the Space Council) for perhaps six to twelve months but not much longer.
3. The approach seems generally reasonable to [] and me. It would provide a mechanism that would enable the intelligence community to monitor the potential demands on this source as they build up.
4. Some changes that would seem desirable in the memorandum would be:
 - a. Mr. Helms should appoint "his" representative, not an "agency" one, since the subject is obviously of community interest.
 - b. I question whether the committee should operate eventually as "an arm" of a USIB committee. Perhaps close liaison is a better formulation.
 - c. Something certainly has to be said about costs. This draft would leave the addressees with the idea that it would all come free. (Actually, [] envisages an [])

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eventual point where a price tag might be put on the by-then
obsolescent KH-4 system, as an alternative to a civilian
satellite. Such a price tag--civilian or KH-4--would no doubt
have a very dampening effect on enthusiasm.)

5. Comments of addressees would be appreciated, by
February 16th if possible.

(Signed) Thomas A. Parrott

AD/DCI/NIPE

cc: DDCI

Attachment:

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Draft [redacted] ekb/9 Feb 68 [redacted]

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MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
ADMINISTRATOR, AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
ADMINISTRATOR, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PLANNING

In November 1966 we jointly initiated a study, subsequently named Project ARGO, to evaluate classified satellite photography from the standpoint of civilian agency needs. The work is now complete and the final report of the project is attached. The resource experts whom you assigned to this task have studied the material from the viewpoint of both their discipline and their knowledge of the interests of their parent agency. The attached document is their report to you on their individual findings. I think your team members are to be congratulated on the enthusiasm and dedication with which they have carried this through.

This has been a very profitable effort--as you read the investigators' reports I think you will see that there is strong evidence that the present intelligence systems can be of service to you in your current operations. Indeed, the probability of its rather immediate utility seems sufficiently high to warrant our taking two more steps to fully exploit the work that has already been done by the ARGO team.

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First, we ought to establish a mechanism whereby your agencies can routinely make your needs and interests known to the intelligence community. As a specific proposal for your consideration, I suggest we continue the ARGO Steering Committee as a Standing Committee which would (1) collect and consolidate the needs that each of you might have for photography from the current systems, (2) see that these needs were made known to the intelligence community and (3) discuss procedures for handling classified photography for these purposes with the community. Your member on the steering committee could be the point of contact within your agency for the generation of uses to which the photography might be put. Mr. Helms has agreed to cooperate with such a group and to appoint an agency representative. I would propose that my office chair the committee until the activity gets well established but I would hope that we could eventually operate as an arm of a USIB committee. I would like to know your opinion on this, and if you agree, who your representative would be.

Second, as we intended when we initiated the program, I propose that each agency now evaluate the ARGO conclusions from the standpoint of its own interests and write a report on its findings. I think it is important to keep in mind that the ARGO team, because of its limited size and the short time available to it, may not have surfaced all the possible uses of this material, nor have demonstrated to your satisfaction those uses that they did identify. Thus, it may be that you

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will see additional applications or will want to initiate pilot studies to demonstrate or further define some of the uses already proposed. Therefore, I suggest that your report emphasize the following points: (1) the identification of additional applications; (2) the elaboration of your requirements from the standpoint of geographic coverage, frequency of coverage, etc.; and (3) the definition of "pilot" studies that you plan to undertake. I would appreciate having the results of your evaluation by 1 May. This report could then serve as your initial input to the activities of the Standing Committee.

Special Assistant to the President
for Science and Technology

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Enclosure

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